

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An authentication system for authenticating a user of a telephonic device, comprising:

a setup system for capturing and storing an authentic user voice sample;

a comparison system that compares the authentic user voice sample with an inputted voice sample and generates a comparison result in the form of a probability score; and

a control system for controlling access to the telephonic device, wherein the control system:

analyzes ~~the~~ the probability score for an initial inputted voice sample received when a telephone call is initiated; ~~and~~

periodically analyzes a plurality of probability scores for ongoing inputted voice samples received during the telephone call; and

terminates the telephone call if an average of the plurality of probability scores is less than a predetermined threshold for ongoing inputted voice samples.

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The authentication system of claim 1, wherein the control system analyzes comparison results for a plurality of ongoing inputted voice samples in order to determine if the telephone call should be terminated.

5. (Original) The authentication system of claim 1, wherein the telephonic device is a portable phone.

6. (Original) The authentication system of claim 1, wherein the telephonic device comprises a system that provides access to a conference call.

7-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A method for authenticating a user of a telephonic device, comprising:

capturing and storing an authentic voice sample for the user;

initiating a telephone call on the telephonic device;

comparing an initial inputted voice sample with the authentic voice sample;

deciding whether to terminate the telephone based on the compare step for the initial inputted voice sample;

periodically comparing ongoing inputted voice samples obtained during the telephone call with the authentic voice sample and generating a probability score for each compare step; and

~~deciding whether to terminate the telephone based on the periodic compare step for the ongoing inputted voice samples.~~

terminating the telephone call if an average of the probability scores is less than a predetermined threshold.

12-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method for authenticating a plurality of users accessing a conference call, comprising:

capturing and storing an authentic voice sample for each user at a centralized location;

initiating access of a joining user to the conference call;

comparing an initial inputted voice sample of the joining user collected at the centralized location by a sampling system with the authentic voice samples;

deciding whether to allow access to the conference call based on the compare step for the joining user;

periodically comparing ongoing inputted voice samples for all joined users obtained during the conference call by the sampling system with the authentic voice samples, and generating a probability score for each periodic compare; and

terminating access to the conference call for the joining user if an average of the probability scores associated with the joining user is less than a predetermined threshold.

~~deciding whether to terminate access to the conference call for any of the joined users based on the periodic compare step.~~

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the step of deciding whether to allow access to the conference call based on the compare step for the initial inputted voice sample includes the step of:

denying access to the conference call if the initial inputted voice sample does not match one of the authentic voice samples.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, ~~wherein the step of deciding whether to terminate access to the conference call based on the periodic compare step for any joined users includes~~ further comprising the step of:

terminating the conference call for a joined user if one of the ongoing inputted voice samples of the joined user does not match one of the authentic voice samples.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising ~~wherein the step of deciding whether to terminate access to the conference call based on the periodic compare step for any joined users includes the step of:~~

analyzing comparison results for a plurality of ongoing inputted voice samples for a joined user; and

terminating access to the conference call for the joined user if multiple ongoing inputted voice samples do not match one of the authentic voice samples.

19. (Currently Amended) An authentication system for authenticating a user of a voice processing system, comprising:

a setup system for capturing and storing an authentic user voice sample;

a system for obtaining inputted voice samples;

a comparison system that compares the authentic user voice sample with an inputted voice sample and generates a probability score; and

a control system for controlling access to a device associated with the voice processing system, wherein the control system periodically analyzes probability scores generated for ongoing inputted voice samples in order to continuously control access to the device and terminates access to the device if an average of the probability scores is less than a predetermined threshold.

20. (Original) The authentication system of claim 19, wherein the device is selected from the group consisting of: a smart card, a wireless phone, and a phone system.

21. (Previously presented) The authentication system of claim 19, wherein the control system collects and analyzes a series of probability scores for a plurality of periodically inputted voice samples in order to control access to the device.